GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2635
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Sports at School Level
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take initiatives to identify and nurture sporting talents at primary and secondary level of school education in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce sports as a compulsory subject in school curriculum and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve participation of girl child in the sports and games at school level?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)
(a) to (d) A Scheme called "Khelo India − National Programme for Development of Sports" is being implemented by this Ministry as a Central Sector Scheme from the current financial year 2016-17. The Scheme, inter-alia, provides for holding of annual sports competitions in two age groups of (i) under 14 and (ii) under 17 all over India to encourage mass participation of both boys and girls in Sports in both urban and rural areas including schools and identification of talented sportspersons. Such identified talented players will be nominated for trials for induction in various sports promotional schemes of the SAI, or State Sports Academies, whenever feasible and if the identified players so desire. In addition, Ministry through Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing following Sports Promotional Schemes in the country where the entire population including girls from village and rural area are encouraged to participate and get training in various sports:
1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Special Area Games (SAG)
3. SAI Training Centres (STC)
4. Centre of Excellence (CoE)
5. SAI National Academies

There are four Sports Training Centre exclusively for women at STC Badal (Punjab), STC Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh), STC Medikeri (Karnataka) and SAG Tellicherry (Kerala).
School curriculum is decided by respective School Boards under State Governments and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD). However, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been enacted, making elementary education a Fundamental Right, which, inter alia, provides for
(i) A playground for each school;
(ii) A part time instructor for physical education in upper primary schools;
(iii) Supply of play material, games and sports equipment, as required, to schools.
In terms of the provisions of the RTE Act, no school shall be established or recognized unless it fulfills the norms specified in the Schedule attached to the Act.
Ministry of Human Resource Development has, inter-alia, intimated that as per the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, Health and Physical Education, which includes sports, is a compulsory subject from classes I to X and an optional subject at the higher secondary stage. However, education is a subject in the Concurrent List and most of the schools are under the purview of the State/ Union Territory Government.
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